



School of Applied Science and Management

FNGA 207

Public Policy in Northern and Indigenous Context

Term: Winter 2022

Number of Credits: 3.0

Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR: Lisa Jane de Gara

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- Classes will occur on Thursdays from 1pm – 2:20pm online, through Zoom.
- There will be two sessions that will occur on Friday instead of Thursday. These will be “policy development days,” explained below.
- Virtual office hours available by appointment; please send an email.

Schedule

January 6	January 13	NO CLASS: January 20	Policy Development Day: January 21
January 27	February 3	February 10	February 17
February 24 – Reading Week (University Closed, No Class)	March 3	March 10	NO CLASS: March 17
Policy Development Day: March 18	March 24	March 31	April 7

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is designed to introduce students to the study of public policy and the policy process through a Northern and Indigenous lens. The first part of the course explores fundamental theories of policymaking and the stages of the policy cycle. The second part is devoted to examining specific areas of policy, including social, health, indigenous, environmental, and fiscal policy as they apply to Northern and Indigenous contexts.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite(s): *ENGL 100 and one of: HIST 140 or FNGA 100 or FNGA 101.*

This is a second-year course and expectations are set accordingly. Students are assumed to have taken other university-level courses in addition to the named prerequisites. Students who do not meet the specified prerequisites may be admissible with permission.

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

This course is recently re-developed, and its transferability is still being evaluated. Receiving institutions always determine course transferability. Further information and assistance with transfers may be available from the School of Applied Science and Management. Find further information at:

<https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit>

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Define public policy and describe its stages of development and how it affects our lives.
- Describe and analyze how ideas, actors and interests inform and shape public policy.
- Explain public policy theory and policy making practice and describe how policy theory and practice applies to Northern and Indigenous contexts.
- Refine policy analysis, research, and writing skills for the purpose of providing clear, sound, and evidence-based advice.
- Develop, express and defend an informed position on a policy issue, demonstrating understanding and application of policy analysis techniques/tools and critical thinking.

COURSE FORMAT

Weekly breakdown of instructional hours

- **Lecture:** 1.5 hours weekly
- **Readings:** approximately 1.5-2 hours weekly
- **Policy Development Day** weeks will involve commitment to a 3 hour session, which will involve active participation led by the students. We will explain the details during lecture.
 - **January 21:** 9am to noon
 - **March 18:** 10am to 1pm.
 - If you have a conflict (another class) please email your instructor *as soon as possible* to arrange an alternative time.

Delivery format

This course will be delivered in an online synchronous format: students will attend virtual, live lectures at specific times.

EVALUATION

Due Date	Assignment	
January 21	Policy Development Exercise 1	10 %
February 3	Briefing Note Draft Due	10 %
February 17	Briefing Note Due	15%
March 10	SWOT Analysis	25 %
March 18	Policy Development Exercise 2	10 %
April 18	Final Exam Due (Take Home Format)	30%
	Total	100%

Briefing Note: For the briefing note, you will write a short document about a policy issue relevant to Northern and Indigenous Governments. In class, we will discuss how to write an effective briefing note in a useful format—just like those used by different governments.

Specific instructions will be discussed in class, but a briefing note is short: one or two pages long. Briefing notes go through extensive revision processes in real life, so you will be submitting your briefing note twice.

- You will turn in a draft Briefing Note on February 3 for 10% of your grade.
- You will receive feedback to help improve the Briefing Note.
- On February 17, you will submit the same briefing note, revised with edits, for a further 15% of your grade.

Policy Development Exercise 1 and 2: The Policy Development Exercise is a participation-based exercise intended to help you simulate the policy development process—which often involves many different people with specific opinions, perspectives, expertise, and desired outcomes.

- Before the session, all students will receive an issue statement and a perspective—as a community member, as a representative of an Indigenous government or another government, as a representative of industry, or as a policy scholar.
- Each student will give a 5 minute PowerPoint presentation about their “character’s” views, their interests, and what they would like to see occur. Then, the parties will begin discussing and negotiating how best to support a policy solution.
- Your grade will be based on your presentation and your negotiation skills among your peers.

SWOT Analysis: SWOT stands for “strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats.” It is a tool used in strategic planning to identify potential outcomes. For your SWOT Analysis, you will make one of these four-square charts and accompany it with a written explanation of 3-4 pages.

Final Exam: The final exam will involve a series of short essays. It will be delivered in take-home format during the exam period.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

- Refer to the YukonU website for important dates: <https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/important-dates>
- Last day to add or change courses for Winter 2022 is Friday, January 14.

TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

Textbook:

- *Public Administration: A Very Short Introduction* (Stella Z. Theodoulou, 2016)
 - Available online as an e-Book for about \$10 or through the campus bookstore.
 - Purchase link available here (<https://www.amazon.ca/Public-Administration-Very-Short-Introduction/dp/0198724233>) or through the publisher (<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/public-administration-a-very-short-introduction-9780198724230?cc=ca&lang=en&>)
- All other readings will be provided via PDF or link.

Computer Requirements:

- For classes: high speed internet and a computer with the ability to access Zoom, including functional webcam and microphone.
- Microsoft Office Software: Word and PowerPoint will be used.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by others as one's own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

Please refer to Academic Regulations & Procedures for further details about academic standing and student rights and responsibilities.

YUKON FIRST NATIONS CORE COMPETENCY

Yukon University recognizes that a greater understanding and awareness of Yukon First Nations history, culture and journey towards self-determination will help to build positive relationships among all Yukon citizens. As a result, to graduate from ANY Yukon University program, you will be required to achieve core competency in knowledge of Yukon First Nations. For details, please see www.yukonu.ca/yfnccr

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in section 8.0 of the Yukon University Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon University website). It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations by contacting the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC): LearningAssistanceCentre@yukonu.ca.

TOPIC OUTLINE

Week 1 January 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions• What is Policy and Why Does it Matter?• Key Concepts in Northern and Indigenous Lens
Week 2 January 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How the Sausage Gets Made: The Policy Cycle• Politics, Bureaucracy, and Government• Stakeholder Perspectives
Week 3 January 21 (Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policy Development Day 1
Week 4 January 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing for Decision-Makers• Briefing Notes 101• Diversity of Perspectives
Week 5 February 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Briefing Note Feedback Discussion• Effective Non-Academic Writing• The Why and the How of Policy• Identifying Problems and Solutions
Week 6 February 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Theoretical Approaches• The Long History of the State• Bureaucracy in a Nutshell
Week 7 February 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policy Evaluation: How Do We Know if It Works?• SWOT Analysis
Week 8 February 24	Reading Week No Class
Week 9 March 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social and Health Policy

Week 10 March 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Policy • Self-Government and Self Governance
Week 11 March 18 (Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Development Day 2
Week 12 March 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Policy
Week 13 March 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfers, Fiscal Policy, and Economics • Federalism and the Territory Question
Week 14 April 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Better Systems • Innovating and Inclusive Policy • Where do we go from here?
EXAM PERIOD April 18	Take-Home Final Due